

The Daily Star - CHITTAGONG ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS CULTURAL PROGRAMME

Superb musical performance by English medium students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Patriotic Bangla songs, often accompanied with dance items, short plays and pantomimes, and recitation, performed by the students of six English medium schools of Chittagong and all depicting the beauty of Bangla language and the country's traditional culture, enthralled a huge audience yesterday.

Through their performances, the students demonstrated their love for Bangla culture in this month of the Language Movement at a colourful cultural event at the Foy's Lake Amusement Park.

Ekushey Padak recipient and renowned artist Prof Mansur-Ul Karim inaugurated the event organised by The Daily Star in association with

the Concord Group. Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, gave the welcome address at the function. Sunshine Grammar School Principal Safia Gazi Rahman also spoke at the event.

"The Daily Star - Chittagong English Medium School Cultural Programme" was the first event of its kind in the port city to promote Bangla culture among the students of different English medium schools there.

The campaign by The Daily Star started with a programme in Dhaka last year where different English medium schools of the capital took part.

Another programme will be held in the capital on February 28.

In his inaugural speech, Prof Mansur-Ul Karim said, "As

a nation we can proceed easily if we can properly make our children aware of the country, the soil and its roots as well as help them develop conscience and responsibility for the country."

The nation cannot expect much from a person who lacks conscience and enough idea about his/her country, its rich culture and heritage, he said.

"We can feel pride for many of our children who are brightening the image of the country in international arena through their excellent activities in different forms of art and culture," he said. A number of students from Chittagong earned fame participating in international painting competitions in countries like Japan, China, Indonesia, India and

Egypt in the last few years, Prof Mansur added.

In his speech, Mahfuz Anam said, "It is really a wrong allegation against English medium schools that they are not properly teaching students about Bangla culture and that the students there are brought up amidst a foreign culture."

Termining family an important place for sound devel-

opment of the children, he urged guardians to guide their children to achieve good qualities to become ideal human beings instead of pressuring them for good results in school examinations.

Safia Gazi thanked the organisers for giving such an opportunity of a nice get-together to the students of

different schools and their guardians.

The brief discussion was followed by the cultural show presented by the students of six English medium schools of the port city.

The show started with the patriotic song "Sundar, subarno, tarunnyo, labannyo" performed by the students of European Grammar School.

They sang another popular song, "Surjodoye tumi, surjasteo tumi".

The students of Bay View School then rendered two chorus performances as some students danced with the songs. A group of dancers of the same school in Santal outfits then performed a dance item with the popular song "Moin chhalachhalat".

The students of Little Jewels School depicted the usual village life, the struggle for freedom since the Language Movement in 1952 and the Liberation War of 1971 through dance and songs.

A pantomime show by the students of Mastermind School earned huge applause from the audience. Students of Presidency International School rendered songs in Chittagong dialect, which was very entertaining.

The cultural show ended with a mime show and a chorus by the students of British Education Centre.

Later, Presidency International School Principal Col (ret'd) Zia Uddin, Bir Uttam, shared his experience during the Liberation War.

Selim Shamsul Huda Chowdhury of The Daily Star and local cultural activist Rumana anchored the programme.



Students of Bay View School perform at a function titled 'The Daily Star - Chittagong English Medium School Cultural Programme' at the Foy's Lake Amusement Park in the port city yesterday.

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Hold UP polls in time

Forum leaders urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Union Parishad Forum (BUPF) yesterday urged the government to hold union parishad election in time amending some provisions of the Union Parishad Act 2009.

They were speaking at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity demanding amendment to

Section 73 (1) and Section 34 terming them an insult to people's mandate.

They also stressed the need to demarcate area of wards as per population percentage mentioned in Section 13 before holding the election.

They said development work would be hampered if the government demarcate the area after the election ignoring Section 13 of the Union Parishad Act. They said there is no government move to demarcate the area though four months have already passed since enactment of the law.

Md Mahbubur Rahman Tulu, chairperson of the forum, said Section 73 (1) of the Act authorises local administration to give directive to UP on its activities. It goes against the spirit of empowering the local government body since the UP representatives are elected directly by the people, he added.

Besides, Section 34 of the act contains the provision for suspending a union parishad chairman if a case is filed against him or her, if police submit charge sheet and the case is accepted by a court, he said.

Abdur Razzak, joint secretary of the forum, Jamil Ahmed, Head of Programme at the Institute of Governance Studies, Brac University, Wazed Firoz, Programme Director, Democracywatch were present at the briefing organised by BUPF, Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (Progtai) in cooperation with USAID.

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